

to Radical and Liberal bodies, the reason was, in part, that, as Webb has more than once frankly stated, the Fabians did not, at this stage, in the least appreciate the importance of the Trade Union movement, partly that, again at this stage, Liberal minds seemed the most suggestible Up and down the country, and notably in London, Radicals and even Liberals of the orthodox brand were becoming restive They were bored with Ireland, many of them In London, in particular, they were deeply perturbed about social conditions Consummate ingenuity was brought to bear upon these perturbed spirits The Fabians not only gave lectures, with superior cunning, they invited well-known politicians and economists to come and lecture to them They invited them to Willis's Rooms, "the most aristocratic and also the cheapest place of meeting in London at the time " They listened, and then, at question time, fell upon them and "made them wish they had never been born"

An article in a contemporary Radical periodical (1888) suggestively entitled "Butchered to make a Fabian Holiday" gives a vivid inside account of what it felt like, supplied by a well-known M P, thus lured into the "Webb "

Fabian members were urged to get inside their respective political associations, whether Radical Club, Trade Union or Co-operative branch, or Conservative Association, and stir them up *Facts for Socialists* and *Facts for Londoners*

had begun the subversive work, it was followed up by getting a stream of resolutions sent up by Radical Clubs, Liberal Associations and Trade Union branches in favour of a legal Eight Hours Day of municipal ownership and administration of water, gas, tramways and docks for the benefit of the ratepayers of an unlimited extension of free education and health services and, to meet the cost of all this, of stiff taxation of wealth by increased and